

CLAIMS

We Claim:

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1. A method of enhancing antimicrobial defense, comprising administering an effective amount of a therapeutic composition to a host suspected of having a microbial infection, said composition comprising a product of the 5-lipoxygenase pathway.
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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said microbial infection is bacterial pneumonia.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said product of the 5-lipoxygenase pathway comprises a leukotriene.
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4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said leukotriene is leukotriene B₄.
5. The method of Claim 3, wherein said leukotriene is a cysteinyl leukotriene.
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6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said cysteinyl leukotriene is selected from the group consisting of leukotriene C₄, leukotriene D₄ and leukotriene E₄.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said administering comprises pulmonary administration.
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8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said pulmonary administration is by aerosolization of said therapeutic composition.
9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the co-administration of an antibiotic to said host.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said host is an animal.
11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said host is a human.
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12. A method of treating a bacterial infection, comprising administering an effective amount of a therapeutic composition to a host suspected of having a bacterial infection, said therapeutic composition comprising a leukotriene.
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13. The method of Claim 12, wherein said bacterial infection is bacterial pneumonia.
14. The method of Claim 12, wherein said leukotriene is leukotriene B₄.
15. The method of Claim 12, wherein said leukotriene is a cysteinyl leukotriene.
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16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said cysteinyl leukotriene is selected from the group consisting of leukotriene C₄, leukotriene D₄, and leukotriene E₄.
17. The method of Claim 12, wherein said administering comprises pulmonary administration.
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18. The method of Claim 17, wherein said pulmonary administration is by aerosolization of said therapeutic composition.
19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising the co-administration of an antibiotic to said host.
20. The method of Claim 12, wherein said host is an animal.
21. The method of Claim 12, wherein said host is a human.

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22. A solution for the treatment of a microbial infection, said solution comprising a sterile liquid vehicle and a leukotriene dissolved in said sterile liquid vehicle.
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23. The solution of Claim 22, wherein said leukotriene is leukotriene B₄.
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24. The solution of Claim 22, wherein said leukotriene is a cysteinyl leukotriene.
- 5 4 25. The solution of Claim 24, wherein said cysteinyl leukotriene is selected from the group consisting of leukotriene C₄, leukotriene D₄, and leukotriene E₄.

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26. The solution of Claim 22, wherein said solution is aerosolized.

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